

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IO-10 (ISO) W
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R 201238Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1613

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4766

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BA, IR

SUBJ: GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD COMIDEASTFOR

REF: TEHRAN 4508

1. IRANIAN PRESS MAY 19 AND 20 HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PROMINENCE TO SHAH'S WASHINGTON REMARKS ON PERSIAN GULF DEFENSE PACT AND STATUS OF COMIDEASTFOR AT BAHRAIN. PAPERS GENERALLY PRESENT CAREFULLY PHRASED VERSION OF WHAT SHAH SAID, LEAVING SOME POSSIBILITY OF DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS. "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" MAY 19 GIVES MOST EXPLICIT STATEMENT. IN CONTEXT OF HIS EXPECTATION OF AN EVENTUAL DEFENSE ALLIANCE AMONG PERSIAN GULF STATES, SHAH IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN END TO THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN PROVIDED THAT QTE THERE IS NO OTHER (OUTSIDE) CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY PRESENCE UNQTE. IN REPLY TO QUERY WHETHER UMM AL-QASR WAS A SOVIET NAVAL BASE, SHAH REPLIED QTE IRAQ SAYS IT IS NOT UNQTE.

2. "TEHRAN JOURNAL" MAY 20 CARRIES POLITICAL COLUMN STATING THAT SHAH IS ON RECORD THAT PERSIAN GULF PACT IS NOT AIMED AT ANY PARTICULAR SUPERPOWER. IF ONE SUPERPOWER IS PRESENT IN THE GULF, THE OTHER SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO WITHDRAW. QTE IT IS FELT IN TEHRAN CIRCLES THAT IF THIS ARRANGEMENT IS GOING TO BE REALIZED, THEN ALL PERSIAN GULF COUNTRIES HAVE TO COORDINATE THEIR POLICIES IN THE REGION IN SUCH A WAY THAT NO ONE COUNTRY WOULD PROVIDE SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO ANY FOREIGN POWER UNQTE.

3. DESPITE THIS SHIFT IN IRANIAN RHETORIC RE COMIDEASTFOR PRESENCE AT BAHRAIN, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GOI POLICY IS ESSENTIALLY AMBIVALENT.. IRANIAN NAVY NEEDS AND REGULARLY SEEKS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH USN; HIGH IIN REGARD FOR USN ASSISTANCE IS A BASIC FEATURE OF GOI SECURITY POLICY. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS SHAH'S WONT TO ATTEMPT TO PREEMPT LEADERSHIP POSITION IN RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS AND AS IRANIAN-ARAB RELATIONS EVOLVE WE AND GOB MAY EXPECT LITTLE RELIEF ON RHETORICAL FRONT. WE THINK THAT IRAN WILL RECONCILE DIFFERENCES IN SECURITY AND DIPLOMATIC POLICIES BY NOT ACTIVELY PUSHING FOR COMIDEASTFOR TO DEPART AS LONG AS THERE IS A REGIONAL SOVIET PRESENCE THAT CAN JUSTIFY A COUNTERING HOME PORT ARRANGEMENT FOR USN SHIPS. SHOULD IRAQ CLOSE ITS HARBORS TO SOVIET VESSELS, HOWEVER, IRANIAN INTEREST IN ENDING COMIDEASTFOR PRESENCE WOULD BECOME REAL.

MIKLOS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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